

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/05/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

December 2, 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

In response to your call for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys, please accept the following thoughts:

America is founded upon the religious freedom of all. Rule 8.4(g) has the potential to prohibit those who believe in Biblical values on marriage and family from sharing their views. This would obviously and wrongly be a significant curtailment of the "freedom of speech" of attorneys, and would also set a precedent that would be used to silence other professions and a large percentage of American citizens that hold to traditional values.

Therefore, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule.

Sincerely yours,



Douglas Merwin

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Ed Smith
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STATE OF MONTANA